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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 IO-14 /144 R

TX-387

DRAFTED BY TREAS:JFINKEL:CU
APPROVED BY EB/IFD:PHBOEKER
AID/AA/PPC:PBIRNBAUM(SUBS)
---------- 041187
O 052229Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:NA/
TAGS:EFIN, IMF, IBRD
SUBJ SIMON LETTER RE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 155405

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (UNDER DATE SEPTEMBER 3) FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON TO AFDB PRESIDENT LABIDI:

2. QUOTE. SEPTEMBER 3, 1974. DEAR PRESIDENT LABIDI: AMBASSADOR ROBERT SMITH PROVIDED YOU RECENTLY WITH A COPY OF
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MY LETTER OF JULY 17 TO THE HEADS OF C-20 CONSTITUENCIES ON THE CREATION OF A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BROAD PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT.

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3. QUOTE. IN ORDER TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON DEVELOP-
MENTS SINCE MID-JULY, I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR SMITH TO GIVE
YOU THIS LETTER, TO WHICH I ATTACH FOR YOUR INFORMATION A
COPY OF A SECOND LETTER I SENT RECENTLY TO THE C-20 CONSTI-
TUENCY HEADS. SIMILAR INFORMATION COPIES ARE BEING SENT TO
THE HEADS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. QUOTE. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY YOURS, WILLIAM
E. SIMON. ATTACHMENT. END QUOTE.

QUOTE: SEPTEMBER 3, 1974. MY LETTER TO YOU OF JULY 17,
1974, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS HEAD OF ONE OF THE C-20 CONSTITU-
ENCIES, WAS INTENDED TO HELP MOVE US TOWARD A CONSENSUS
ON THE NATURE AND FORMAT OF A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHERE
GOVERNMENTS CAN DEAL WITH THE BROAD PROBLEMS OF DEVELOP-
MENT. RESPONSES TO THIS LETTER AND DISCUSSIONS HELD RE-
CENTLY IN WASHINGTON, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, INDICATE THAT
THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON MANY ASPECTS OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE COMMITTEE. A PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL INFORMAL MEETING
WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 13. REPRESENTATIVES OF
ALL THE CONSTITUENCIES TOOK PART IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUS-
SION ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. QUOTE. THE AREAS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT AT THE WASHING-
TON DISCUSSION INCLUDED THE URGENCY OF ORGANIZING THE COM-
MITTEE AND BEGINNING ITS WORK; THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS BEING
INDEPENDENT IN ITS OPERATIONS AND OF ITS HAVING A MANDATE
OF BROAD SCOPE THAT VIEWS THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN
THE WIDEST TERMS; AND THE DESIRABILITY OF THE COMMITTEE
SERVING AS A COORDINATING MECHANISM AND FORUM FOR ARRIVING
AT A CONSENSUS OF GOVERNMENTAL VIEWS, ORIENTED TOWARD AC-
TIONS CONSISTENT WITH THAT CONSENSUS IN VARIOUS ARENAS.

6. QUOTE. I AM ADVISED THAT THE CLEAR WEIGHT OF OPINION
IN THE WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS WAS THAT IN PRACTICE THE
COMMITTEE SHOULD BE OPERATIONALLY INDEPENDENT OF THE IMF
AND IBRD, BUT THAT THIS INDEPENDENCE COULD BE ACHIEVED WITH
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A COMMITTEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMF/IBRD. MOREOVER, IT WAS
FELT THAT THE SIMPLEST WAY TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY WAS ON
THE BASIS OF SUCH ASSOCIATION. GIVEN THE CONSENSUS, AS
WELL AS THE OTHER BROAD AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAT HAVE BEEN
REACHED REGARDING RATIONALE, STRUCTURE AND WORK PROGRAM, IT
APPEARS TO ME THAT WE SHOULD NOW MOVE FORWARD WITH PARALLEL
RESOLUTIONS IN THE IMF AND IBRD WHICH WOULD CREATE THE COM-
MITTEE AT THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS.

7. QUOTE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE APPEARS TO BE UNANI-

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MITY THAT INDEPENDENCE OF OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE WILL REQUIRE A DISTINGUISHED AND WELL-QUALIFIED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WITH FULL FREEDOM OF ACTION TO CARRY FORWARD THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND WITH A SMALL (5-15 MAN) BUT EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL STAFF RESPONSIBLE EXCLUSIVELY TO HIM AND TO THE COMMITTEE. YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHO MIGHT SERVE IN THIS IMPORTANT CAPACITY WOULD BE WELCOME.

8. QUOTE. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A USEFUL CLARIFICATION OF THE NATURE OF THE ROLE FORESEEN FOR THE COMMITTEE. THERE NEED BE NO CONCERN THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD ASSUME A MANDATORY, DECISION-MAKING ROLE THAT WOULD BIND INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACTIONS, OR THAT IT WOULD FUNCTION AS A COURT OF APPEAL FROM PARTICULAR DECISIONS WITHIN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL BODIES. IT SHOULD, RATHER, BE A FORUM FOR ARRIVING AT A CONSENSUS ON DESIRABLE BROAD COURSES OF ACTION, WHICH CONSENSUS WOULD THEN FORM THE BASIS FOR POSITIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR BILATERAL ACTIVITIES AND IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE.

9. QUOTE. IN ORDER TO PERMIT OURSELVES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE HOW WELL THIS CONCEPT IS FUNCTIONING, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED AND SEEMS REASONABLE TO HAVE THE RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE PROVIDE FOR A REVIEW OF ITS WORK AFTER, SAY, TWO YEARS, AT WHICH TIME A DECISION COULD BE MADE ON THE COMMITTEE'S COURSE.

10. QUOTE. AS TO THE WORK PROGRAM FACING THE COMMITTEE AS SOON AS IT IS ESTABLISHED, I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL CONSTITUENCIES AGREE THAT THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF THE ECONOMIC
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SITUATION OF THE "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED" DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A PRIORITY ISSUE. THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE AGREEMENT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, TO FOCUS INITIALLY ON ONE PARTICULAR LONGER-TERM ISSUE. THE ACCESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS, AND THE LINK BETWEEN THESE MARKETS AND LDC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, APPEARS TO BE THE MOST SUITABLE ISSUE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS RELEVANCE TO THE MSA PROBLEM ITSELF.

11. QUOTE. THE QUESTION OF THE ATTENDANCE OF HEADS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (BEYOND THE HEADS OF THE IMF AND IBRD THEMSELVES) AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE ONE REQUIRING POLITICAL JUDGMENTS BETTER ARRIVED AT BY MINISTERS AT THEIR FIRST MEETING THAN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAD A COPY OF MY JULY 17 LETTER MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HEADS OF SEVERAL MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND I AM DOING LIKEWISE WITH THIS LETTER IN

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ORDER TO KEEP THEM INFORMED REGARDING THE COMMITTEE.

12. QUOTE. I UNDERSTAND THAT TIME HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR AN INITIAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 2. IN ORDER TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE ONE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY MEETING AT DEPUTIES -LEVEL. SINCE THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT YET EXIST AND THEREFORE HAS NO DEPUTIES GROUP, I HAVE ASKED MY DEPUTY TO ARRANGE AN INFORMAL BREAKFAST MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

13. QUOTE. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON THE PROSPECTIVE NEW COMMITTEE, WHERE I AM CERTAIN THE FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE AND HABITS OF COOPERATION THAT TYPIFIED OUR C-20 CONTACTS WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD. SINCERELY YOURS, WILLIAM E. SIMON. END QUOTE.

14. NOTE SALUTATION OF ATTACHMENT LETTER TO REMAIN BLANK WHEN DELIVERED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FINANCIAL PROGR AMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE195054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFINKEL:CU
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740246-1171
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740971/aaaacicm.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN TRSE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 155405
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIMON LETTER RE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
TAGS: EFIN, XX, US, IMF, IBRD, (SIMON, WILLIAM E)
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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